

REMARKS

Applicant has submitted herewith a copy of amended Figures 1 and 23 for approval by the Examiner. Figure 23 is being supplied as a corrected replacement sheet for Figure 23 and has been identified as "prior art". Figure 1 has been corrected to remove the references numbers 16 and 13b. The reference 11a in Figure 1 is supported in the specification at page 5, line 9 and does not need to be corrected.. Applicant believes that the amended replacement of Figure 23 and corrected Figure 1 now satisfy 37 CFR 1.21(d) and accordingly the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 102(d) as being anticipated by Bluteau et al USPN 6,181,361 is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claim 1 reciting the data reading device as being incorporated in the top cover unit so as to move with the top cover unit relative to the continuous paper compartment. This feature is not shown or taught in Bluteau et al and accordingly the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 102 should be withdrawn.

Claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1 and accordingly the rejection thereof should also be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bluteau et al in view of Momose USPN 6,068,187.

Claims 3 and 4 are dependent claims which depend from claim 1. It is admitted in paragraph 4 of the official communication that Bluteau et al does not disclose a front case unit having a slip transportation path for conveying a slip between a front case unit and a back case unit and does not teach a second print unit disposed to the slip transportation path for printing to slips. In addition Bluteau does not teach a data reading device incorporated in the top cover unit so as to move with the top cover unit relative to the continuous paper compartment for reading image data recorded or printed on an external medium when the medium is inserted into the printer. The Examiner cited the reference Momose USPN 6,068,187 as a supplemental reference

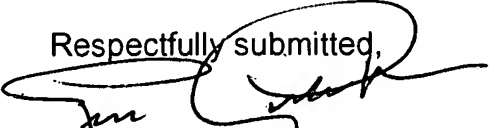
teaching a processing device used for processing cheques with a slip transportation path and a print unit disposed to the slip transportation path for printing. However, Momose does not teach the use of a data reading device for reading image data recorded or printed on an external medium when the medium is inserted into the printer and does not teach a data reading device incorporated in the top cover unit so as to move with the top cover unit relative to the continuous paper compartment. Accordingly there is no basis for the allegation of the Examiner that it would be obvious to combine Momose with Bluteau et al and the rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC 103 should be withdrawn.

Applicant acknowledges that claims 5-21 are allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim upon which they depend and any intervening claims. In light of the amendment to claim 1 claims 5-21 are all now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 22-30.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-30 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 4, 2005.

Signed: 

Dated: May 4, 2005

IN THE DRAWINGS

A corrected copy of Figures 1 and 23 is attached hereto in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) for approval by the Examiner. Figure 1 has been corrected to remove the reference characters 13b and 16, and Figure 23 has been corrected to include the legend –Prior Art– below the figure. Both Figures 1 and 23 further include the label “replacement sheet” as a header.